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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC 7634-80
20 November 1980MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central IntelligenceVIA: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: [REDACTED]

Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Near East
and South Asia

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SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Assessment: Near East and South Asia

1. Discussions covered a wide range of regional topics the most important of which are addressed in the following paragraphs. There was a general consensus that the most troubling question was that of formal Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights. This developing situation has broad policy implications for the future and bears close watching. [REDACTED] -

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3. Libya-Chad. Libya's role in the Chadian civil conflict continues but there is no current indication that Qadhafi sees the fighting around

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Ndjemena as a proscenium for near term replays in Tunisia or Sudan. The implications of Libyan involvement are addressed in more detail by the African Warning Assessment which was coordinated on 18 November. []

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4. Lebanon. By crushing its National Liberal Party competitors in recent intrafactional fighting, the rightist Maronite Phalange Party has administered a severe setback to the Lebanese Government and armed forces. Currently, the Phalange leadership is consolidating its gains on the ground and strengthening its ties with other militias. While Bashir Jumayil's star continues to ascend, Syria remains committed to his chief Christian rival, former president Sulayman Franjiyah, and has augmented its military presence in West Beirut. Friction between Christian East and Muslim-Palestinian West Beirut is certain to continue and, given the volatile nature of the adversaries, tensions could escalate with little forewarning. Any major Israeli operation in the South or a drawdown of Syrian forces in the city would probably trigger additional Phalange efforts to expand the party's area of control. Fostering such tensions and thereby drawing the PLO into a militant posture might serve Israeli purposes by spotlighting the Palestinian presence as the key destabilizing factor which prevents Lebanon from finding a peaceful solution to its ongoing political turmoil. []

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5. Iran-Iraq. Analysts see no indication that the tempo of tactical operations along the battlelines is likely to change during the next several weeks and it is still difficult to assess the longterm implications of recent Iranian airstrikes against Kuwaiti territory which prompted our 14 November Alert Memorandum. []

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6. Afghanistan. Soviet combat operations will probably decline somewhat in both scope and intensity during the current general troop rotation, which is expected to involve nearly all units serving in Afghanistan. Despite this temporary hiatus, there is a possibility that the Soviets may be planning a winter campaign against the insurgents. Afghan resistance forces have recently demonstrated improved tactics and leadership -- particularly in the areas of targetting, organization for combat, and psychological warfare. If the Soviets do indeed attempt to maintain or increase the tempo of operations, the combination of Pathan unconventional warfare skills, bad weather, inhospitable terrain, and uncertain rear area security will certainly test their mettle. Of particular interest will be the ability of Soviet attack and assault helicopters to successfully conduct operations at high altitudes in marginal atmospheric regimes -- especially snow or freezing rain. []

25X1

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25X1

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7. Oil Prices. The world market may well be on the verge of sharp increases in the price of crude oil and other petroleum products. There is a growing reluctance by major companies to continue drawing down pre-Iraq war stocks and pressures are building for a new upward spiral. This situation will be difficult to contain even if the December OPEC ministerial meetings do not result in a broad policy of price hikes. Because of the war, world-wide stocks are presently falling about 2 million barrels per day more quickly than the previous seasonal average. We expect the pricing picture to be more clearly focused by our next meeting but in the interim at least a modest increase in the spot market is very likely. [REDACTED]

25X1

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A/NIO/NESA [REDACTED] (20 Nov. 80) [REDACTED]

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